

AGENDA ITEM III B

PROPOSED NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AT SHREVEPORT

ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Southern University - Shreveport (SUS) is a two-year institution currently offering accredited associate degree programs in such allied health areas as Respiratory Therapy, Radiologic Technology, Dental Hygiene, and Surgical Technology. The proposed degree would be its first associate degree offering in nursing.

STAFF ANALYSIS

1. Objectives

The purpose of the program is to prepare students to write the National Council Licensure Examination for registered nurses (NCLEX-RN) and to practice as nurse generalists in a variety of settings. The degree will also serve as an opportunity for practicing Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN) to elevate their credentials, and as a means for graduates to pursue nursing education at the baccalaureate level.

2. Need

Currently, there are two associate-level nursing programs offered in north-central or northwestern Louisiana, one at Louisiana Tech in Ruston, and one offered in Shreveport by Northwestern State University. The University has provided evidence that there is a demonstrable need for more registered nurses in its service area: reported projections of unfilled vacancies at area hospitals, nursing homes, and various clinics do establish that current graduation rates from area RN programs will not fill every vacancy identified. In addition, the University argues that the proposed A.S. program would be attractive to in-training or already-employed LPN's and to many students who are qualified for admission to RN programs at Tech or Northwestern but who either a) have schedules that do not allow them to enroll, or b) cannot be admitted to those programs due to Louisiana State Board of Nursing (LSBN) regulations as to allowable faculty:student ratios in clinical curricula. The University reports strong interest in the proposed program among its own students.

3. Curriculum

In-state reviewers of the proposed curriculum made a number of recommendations to the proposed curriculum, which was subsequently revised and amplified substantially by an LSBN-approved Program Director, recently hired. The current proposal is for a degree program of 72 hours divided equally between general education courses and electives (36 hrs.) and major coursework in nursing (36 hrs.). Major requirements are as follows:

- Basic Principles of Nursing
- Issues and Trends in Nursing
- Concepts and Processes of Nursing I, II, and III
- Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing
- Nursing Care of the Child
- Nursing Care of Child-Bearing Family
- Principles of Pharmacology

All but two of the major courses above have laboratory components. After taking an LPN-RN Transition Course, entering LPN students would receive credit for Concepts and Processes of Nursing I and Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing and be accelerated thereby through the program. Admission requirements are consistent with established norms. Clinical experiences are under development.

11. Students

The University expects that students are likely to come from several sources:

The pool may include students currently attending SUS who have demonstrated an interest and meet admission requirements, local and regional health care employees desiring to enhance career options, displaced workers, and place-bound residents who desire nursing as a career, as well as out-of-state students who have ties to Louisiana.

Based on records of expressed interest from these sources (over 300 unique requests, 220 of which were from current students at SUS), the University projects the following enrollment and graduation figures:

Enrollment and Graduation Projections

| | Fall 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 |
|-------------------|--------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| New FTE | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 |
| Returning | 0 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 40 |
| LPN transfers | 0 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Enrollment | 40 | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 |
| Graduates | 0 | 50 | 50 | 50 | 50 |

Somewhat surprisingly, the University does not project any student attrition.

12. Faculty

The program will be housed in the Department of Nursing and be directed by a Chair with a doctorate in nursing and more than twenty years of educational and administrative experience in nursing. Four additional full-time faculty have been employed; all will have credentials that meet LSBN requirements and be in place on campus by July 1, 2004. This start date will ensure that the faculty are in place, as per LSBN regulations, six months prior to the anticipated start date for student admission. It will also ensure that students moving through the program in its initial years have adequate numbers of supervisory faculty for the clinical portion of their curriculum. The University also plans to hire an additional three full-time faculty in the second year of the program, boosting its ability to move more students through clinicals. Other faculty employed by the campus currently will assist in teaching non-nursing coursework.

13. Facilities/Equipment

The University will develop new facilities for the program, as reported below:

Southern University at Shreveport plans to commit the entire fifth floor, measuring 9,057 square feet, to the nursing program. Included in the plan will be five private offices, a secretarial/reception area, a fully-equipped nursing laboratory, an AV/Computer Laboratory, and three classrooms. Space is available for the creation of three private offices for the addition of three full-time faculty in the second year, and one office for part-time faculty.

Verbal agreements exist to house clinical experiences for the curriculum at four primary health care facilities in northwestern Louisiana: LSUHSC-S, Willis-Knighton, Christus Schumpert, and the Veteran's Administration Medical Center. The University reports that it has additional verbal agreements from appropriate parties at local healthcare facilities for the use of those sites during the clinical portion of the curriculum. Final agreements are expected to be signed after the Regents and the

LSBN approve the program.

14. Library

The University will develop library holdings for the proposed program, as reported below:

The institution will acquire library holdings for the proposed nursing program using the Brandon/Hill list of print nursing books and journals. This is the accepted guide for establishing a collection of print material relevant to nursing education... Additional library resources will be furnished through the Louisiana Library Network (LOUIS).

15. Administration

The program will be directed by the Chair of the Department of Nursing, who will be advised by a Nursing Advisory Committee composed of individuals from the nursing and healthcare community. The Chair will report to the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

16. Accreditation

The program must first be approved by the Louisiana State Board of Nursing before proceeding with professional accreditation. The University projects that the LSBN will visit the institution to conduct its on-site review in August 2004. Once LSBN approval has been granted, the program will then be eligible for NLN review upon graduation of its first class. According to Board of Regents Academic Affairs Policy 2.13 - Program Accreditation, professional accreditation of the program by the National League for Nursing is *mandatory*.

17. Budget

Projected costs of the program are shown below:

| Budget | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Salaries (Chair, secretary, incl. fringes) | \$ 117,600 | \$ 117,600 | \$ 117,600 | \$ 117,600 | \$ 117,600 |
| Salaries (full, part-time faculty, incl. fringes) | 240,000 | 448,000 | 448,000 | 448,000 | 448,000 |
| Equipment | 100,000 | 10,000 | 6,000 | 4,000 | 3,000 |
| Library | 10,000 | 8,000 | 8,000 | 8,000 | 8,000 |
| Travel | 7,500 | 7,500 | 7,500 | 7,500 | 7,500 |
| Supplies | 2,000 | 3,000 | 3,000 | 3,000 | 3,000 |
| Misc. (e.g., accreditation fees, dues, exams) | 4,360 | 10,860 | 4,360 | 4,360 | 4,360 |
| Total | \$ 481,460 | \$ 604,960 | \$ 594,460 | \$ 592,460 | \$ 592,460 |

The program has been, and will continue to be, supported financially by a combination of general funds, self-generated revenue, and federal (HEA Title III - HBCU) funds. The majority (60%) of funding is (and will continue to be) federal and stable, and will cover all the salaries/fringe benefits of the program's full and part-time faculty (the Chair excepted). General university funds will meet expenses for the Department Chair, her secretarial support, and all operating expenses as shown above. It should be noted that start-up laboratory equipment has already been purchased by federal dollars from the Carl Perkins fund.

It would appear, then, the financial support is sound.

STAFF SUMMARY

Need for the proposed program is evident. Student interest is substantial. Given need and student interest, unnecessary duplication does not appear to be a relevant issue. The College has responded appropriately and substantively to all reviewer recommendations and suggestions for continued development. The efforts to date of the University's administration and new program director have been commendable. The curriculum is balanced and sound. Facilities are still in development and should be monitored. Faculty are qualified; plans for their starting dates are prudent. Administration plans are reasonable. The support of local healthcare facilities is encouraging. The budget also appears to be reasonable, particularly in light of the federal funding the program has received. It thus appears that the College is well on its way to initiating a program consistent with LSBN regulations and guidelines.

As required by Academic Affairs Policy 2.13 - Program Accreditation, the College must attain accreditation of the proposed program by the National League of Nursing Accrediting Commission.

As with other programs of this type, the staff recommends conditional approval with stipulations. Progress toward LSBN approval should be carefully monitored, along with student enrollment and the development of adequate facilities and resources. An implementation date for the program should be decided after the program secures LSBN approval. Thereafter, progress toward NLNAC accreditation should also be monitored by means of annual reports.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends that the Academic And Student Affairs Committee grant conditional approval for the proposed Associate of Science in Nursing program (CIP 51.1601) at Southern University at Shreveport, with the following stipulations:

- 1. By October 1, 2004, the College shall update the Commissioner of Higher Education on the status of its application to the Louisiana State Board of Nursing for approval.***
- 2. Once the LSBN has granted approval of the program, the Board of Regents shall consider a date for program implementation.***

3. *After program implementation, annual reports regarding the program's progress toward NLNAC accreditation shall be required. The dates and content of these annual reports shall be decided once an implementation date has been set.*